

Previous Events and Workshops at Yorkley Court Community Farm

A number of free or low cost workshops (practical education sessions) and events have been held at Yorkley Court Farm since 2012.

Solar Panel Building Workshop: 14th October 2012

Around 20 people from around the Forest joined this workshop led by farm community member Lynne Davis. The purpose of the workshop was to learn how to build you own solar panels from materials retrieved from the PV industry's waste stream.

PV is a technology that can reduce our energy footprint massively, but they do use many resources in their production. Every year tonnes of PV parts are rejected. These parts are, however, still useable. By using old window panes and rejected PV cells we managed to make our own panels which are still supplying our energy needs on the farm.

Empowering people to build what is usually regarded as a specialist technology is enabling people to have more control over what we invest in when it comes to renewables. It diverts waste from the waste stream, educates people about how much power we need in order to run our appliances and transfers specialist skills to a DIY level.

The photos show Lynne introducing the basic principles of PV and Power, a participant placing the cells in the glazing unit and participants cell soldering.



Rocket Mass Heater Workshop: 25th - 26th October 2012

The rocket stove workshop was attended by approximately 10 people from around the Forest of Dean. The workshop focused on building a Rocket Stove Mass Heater for the community kitchen space. The heater was built of reclaimed materials as well as natural minerals such as sand and earth. The workshop was taught by YCCF builder Sara Tommerup over 2 consecutive days.

People who came to the workshop were interested in this technology because they wanted a sufficient wood burning stove to heat their homes. The rocket mass heater is a democratic low tech technology that everybody can build with a little bit of guidance and understanding of pyro-physics. Today its design is used and adapted all over the world by homeowners who want to take environmental responsibility into their own hands.



Introduction to Permaculture Workshop: 9th - 10th March 2013

A two day practical introduction to Permaculture led by Tomas Remeiraz and Al Jack. Around 12 people attended.

Spring Gathering: 16th - 25th March 2013

A nine day event with the following talks, activities and workshops:

- Community Composting Build Workshop
- 'Bee for Development' Talk
- Top Bar Bee Hive Workshop
- Forest Garden/ Agro-Forestry Workshop
- Foraging Plants for Food, Fuel and Dyes Workshop
- DIY Solar Panel Building Workshop
- Fracking Talk
- Homeopathic First Aid Workshop
- Coppicing and Woodland Stewarding Workshop
- Natural Spinning and Dying Workshop
- Willow Weaving Workshop
- No-Till Organic Farming Talk

Approximately 80 people attended throughout the event, some from the local area, some from

further afield.

Building a Bike Powered Generator: September 2013

A day long workshop learning how to build a pedal-powered generator. The generator built in this workshop is now used to charge mobile phones.

Willow Basket Weaving October 2013:

This workshop ran over a period of three days and was attended by members of the local community. The workshop was run by a visiting highly skilled willow weaver and two members of the community. There was an average of 6 attendees per day producing a basket each over a period of 4 hours.

Willow is a renewable material abundant in the woodland at Yorkley Court Community Farm. Through coppicing this material can be managed to produce a large amount of material for basket making, hurdles and fences.

We have also produced willow baskets for sale through the LETS group in the Forest of Dean.

Wassail: 21st February 2014

A traditional celebration that took place in the orchard, to ensure a good apple harvest for the coming season. This publicly advertised event, was attended by a number of local residents and also consisted of musical and theatrical performances by residents and visitors.

Open Day: 14th June 2014

A widely advertised public event that gave tours around the farm, a free lunch and ran the following workshops:

DIY Forging - Using a homemade forge to make tools

Green Woodworking - Using hand tools to construct wooden benches

Gardening Workshop - Working and getting involved in growing food in the communal vegetable garden

Herbalism discussion - led to the creation a 'herbal network' for the Forest of Dean, which will continue to meet.

About 25 people attended.

Open Day 29th June 2014

A follow up to the previous open day with similar themes. People were also encouraged to propose activities they would like to run or get involved with in the future. About 60 people attended.

Sunday Gardening Day

Since the end of June 2014 YCCF have been holding public gardening days every Sunday. Local people are invited to learn and share their existing knowledge on gardening techniques whilst practically engaging in the site's community garden project. Participants are also offered a share in the produce. Around 6 people attend every week.